

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1-40. (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) A method of producing insulation elements made of mineral wool containing curable binder, comprising:

depositing insulation material comprising mineral wool and curable binder on a conveyor;

curing and transporting the insulation material through a tunnel furnace;

subjecting sections of the insulation material to controlled compaction in such a manner that at least one permanent impression and/or deformation is produced in the insulation blanket while the insulation material is curing during its passage through the tunnel furnace;

wherein the insulation material enters the tunnel furnace having a rectangular cross-sectional profile and the insulation material is impressed and/or deformed to produce a non-rectangular cross-sectional profile during curing; and

providing a molding device within the tunnel furnace, wherein the molding device subjects the insulation material to the controlled compaction in such a manner to produce the at least one permanent impression and/or deformation and curing of the insulation material occurs while the insulation material abuts the molding device to subject the insulation material to the controlled compaction.

42. (cancelled)

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein:  
the mineral wool is rock wool.

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44. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein:  
the mineral wool is glass wool.
45. (cancelled)
46. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein:  
the cross-sectional profile comprises at least one depression or projection.
47. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein:  
the cross-sectional profile of the insulation element displays two parallel recesses in one surface.
48. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein:  
during the step of subjecting sections of the insulation material to controlled compaction, the insulation material is compacted to varying degrees, whereby a density within the insulation elements varies accordingly.
- 49-52. (cancelled)
53. (currently amended) The method of claim 41, wherein:  
~~the tunnel-furnace has a molding device therein, the molding device reducing~~ reduces a cross section of a gap through which the insulation material is transported within the tunnel furnace and compacting the insulation material as it passes therethrough; ~~and~~  
~~the molding device is configured to provide the at least one permanent impression and/or deformation in the insulation material.~~

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein:

the molding device is integrated in the conveyor unit within the tunnel furnace, the conveyor unit comprising at least one first molding element to form the at least one permanent impression and/or deformation, during which process, as a result of contact with a molding surface of the at least one first molding element, the insulation material assumes the non-rectangular cross-sectional profile.

55. (previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein:

the at least one first molding element is configured to contact the insulation material with a pressure contact.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein:

the molding device has at least one second molding element opposite the at least one first molding element.

57. (currently amended) The method of claim 54, wherein:

the ~~at least one molding element~~molding device comprises at least two molding elements.

58. (previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein:

the molding device further includes at least one lateral molding element.

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein:

the first molding element is formed by a compacting and guiding unit, which, together with the conveyor unit, compacts the insulation material or transports it at an upper side.

60. (currently amended) The method of claim 59, wherein:

the compacting and guiding unit comprises a ~~flight~~ belt.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 56, wherein:  
the first molding element and/or the second molding element are engineered as attachable elements for the conveyor unit or a compacting and guiding unit, which, together with the conveyor unit, compacts the insulation material or transports it at an upper side.
62. (previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein:  
the attachable elements and the conveyor unit are engineered as metal components that have the form of gratings or are provided with ventilation channels.
63. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein:  
the components are made of heat-resistant materials.
64. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein:  
the components are segmented.
65. (previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein:  
the attachable elements for attachment to the conveyor and/or compacting and guiding unit have quick-release closures.
66. (previously presented) The method of claim 56, wherein:  
the first and/or second molding element is arranged such that with respect to a conveying plane of the conveyor unit, its molding surface is inclined about a longitudinal transport axis.
67. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[49]]~~ 41, wherein:  
the molding element of the molding device is engineered as an endless loop.

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68. (previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein:  
the endless loop includes a plurality of successive segments.
69. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein:  
the molding element is engineered such that a differing degree of compaction is  
obtained over a breadth of the molding surface.
70. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein:  
the molding element has a contoured molding surface.
71. (previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein:  
the contoured molding surface comprises an inclined planar surface.
72. (previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein:  
the contoured molding surface comprises grooves and/or projections.
73. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein:  
the mineral wool has the non-rectangular cross-sectional profile and areas of different  
density after being provided with the at least one permanent impression and/or deformation.
74. (previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein:  
the mineral wool varies in height over the cross-sectional profile after being provided  
with the at least one permanent impression and/or deformation.
75. (previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein:  
the insulation element has a higher density in thinner areas than in thicker areas after  
being provided with the at least one permanent impression and/or deformation.

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76. (previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein:  
the cross-sectional profile of the insulation element displays, in one surface, two parallel recesses in an area of which the density is higher than in very thick areas after being provided with the at least one permanent impression and/or deformation.
77. (new) The method of claim 66, wherein:  
the first and/or second molding element consists of a single member.
78. (new) The method of claim 66, wherein:  
the first and/or second molding element extends over an entire length of the conveyor unit.
79. (new) The method of claim 66, wherein:  
a height of the first and/or second molding element decreases across a breadth of the conveyor unit.